



JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees

APRIL 3, 2014



JSC BUDGET CONVERSATIONS

The president has convened a budget task force — comprised of staff, faculty and deans — and recently hosted an information session for faculty, staff and students to update them on current JSC budget challenges and to explain where our revenue comes from and how it is spent. We have set up an online form where anyone can suggest ways to save money, cut costs and increase revenue. As well, task force members are meeting with small groups by department to solicit ideas. While our immediate focus is on presenting a balanced budget for the 2015 academic year, we also are looking ahead so we can best match our resources with our top priorities. The quality of the student experience leads the way.



JSC, CCV & VERMONT LAW SCHOOL FORM PARTNERSHIP

Our three institutions have created a program called “Pathways to Law and Policy for Vermonters” to prepare JSC and CCV students for the challenges of graduate study and help them ultimately earn either a master’s or a J.D. degree from Vermont Law School.

VLS will provide a faculty advisor who will assist JSC and CCV in admitting students into the program and mentoring accepted students, called Pathways Scholars. The scholars will receive intensive academic support as well as financial incentives, including a \$15,000 annual scholarship if they matriculate into VLS and maintain good academic standing. While at CCV and JSC, they will be invited to attend lectures, receptions and other events at VLS, which will cover transportation costs, and they may audit a VLS summer course free of charge. Students who take advantage of these opportunities and achieve the designated GPA will be accepted into a master’s degree program through an expedited application process. Entrance into the J.D. program also requires sitting for the LSAT exam.



‘CLUB TO COLLEGE SCHOLARS’ INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

JSC, CCV and the Burlington Boys & Girls Club have launched the “Club to College Scholars” program to make a college degree an achievable goal for club members. The initiative builds on the club’s “Early Promise Program,” which provides intensive academic support to eligible club members who are committed to succeeding in post-secondary education. The program requires club members to set educational goals both at school and at the club.



The “Club to College Scholars” program will allow club members who meet these goals to enroll in a certificate or associate degree program at CCV and, after meeting academic requirements, to matriculate in a bachelor’s degree program at JSC while paying CCV’s lower tuition rate. More details are available [here](#).

The kick-off celebration to announce the program included a sugar-on-snow party hosted by Howrigan Family Farms at the club. Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe was on hand to express Governor Shumlin’s enthusiasm for this initiative.

Club members ham it up with JSC students Brittany Robertson and Bryan Hickey at a sugar-on-snow party following the March 5th announcement of the “Club to College Scholars” program.

VT GENETICS NETWORK FUNDS NEW STUDY

Amy Welch, associate professor of environmental and health sciences, is the latest recipient of funding from the Vermont Genetics Network for research being conducted at JSC. Dr. Welch is comparing the effects of four-week biofeedback and exercise interventions in students who are experiencing stress and anxiety. She and her students will investigate the effect of these interventions on heart rate as well as such stress-related psychological factors as anxiety, energy, fatigue and sleep quality. We are pleased that Professor Welch's funding will allow more JSC students the opportunity to serve as research assistants.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Four JSC students will present a poster titled "A Bioinformatics Approach to Investigating Microbial Community Structure" at the 2014 National Conference on Undergraduate Education at the University of Kentucky April 2-5. The students — Erika English, Eliza Chevalier, Eliza Doncaster and Hannah Sargent — are supported by faculty sponsors Liz Dolci of JSC and Heather Driscoll of the Vermont Genetics Network. More information is available [here](#).

In addition to her studies and research with Dr. Dolci at JSC, Eliza Doncaster is a longtime member of the JSC Chamber Singers. She will fly directly from the NCUR conference to Providence, R.I., to join the group for its annual New England singing tour during April break. The tour begins and ends with performances at high schools schools in Vermont.

In February, seven JSC students, including VSC Trustee Colin Santee (right), traveled to Boston to take part in the 60th session of the Harvard National Model United Nations. There they combined with more than 3,000 other college students from around the world to "discuss the greatest challenges facing the world today, in fields ranging from international peace and security to economic and social progress and human rights." The students are members of JSC's new Model UN Club, sponsored by Associate Professor David Plazek. This was the first time JSC has participated in the event.



During a season in which our men's and women's basketball teams both qualified for the NAC post-season tournament, senior Bryan Hickey and junior Brittany Robertson (pictured on previous page) each surpassed 1,000 career points. Robertson also set the College's all-time record for three-point shots (171).

2010 JSC graduate Courtney Gabaree is one of just seven Vermont women, from high-school age to senior-citizen status,

profiled in a video series produced by Vermont Public Television titled "[Vermont Makers](#)." Inspired by the national PBS series "Makers: Women Who Made America," the series tells the stories of "trailblazing Vermont women who have made a difference in their communities." Courtney worked on children's rights issues and helped push Vermont's law against human trafficking through the legislature while a student at JSC. She continues that work as a youth advocate at H.O.P.E. Works in Burlington, where she helps survivors of prostitution and recently worked with the state attorney general's office to update Vermont sex-trafficking law. View Courtney's video profile [here](#).

33 PARTICIPATE IN ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

During February break 33 JSC students and staff participated in our newly named "Badger Alternative Breaks" program:

- Eleven traveled to Prince William National Forest in Virginia to restore and maintain trails and lands visited by more than 215,000 people a year.
- Ten performed farm maintenance, cared for dogs and assisted with newborn lambs for the Mid-Atlantic Border Collie Rescue in Maryland, which has rescued more than 1,700 border collies over its 20-year history.
- Twelve installed a 3-kilometer-long water line to provide clean water to the village of El Limonel in Ometepe, Nicaragua. The villagers had been waiting 24 years for a clean water system. Prior to JSC's completion of the project Feb. 27, they had to walk more than 1 kilometer to reach the nearest water source.

Since 1991, JSC has sponsored more than 116 alternative-break service trips involving more than 1,150 JSC participants.

LOCAL SERVICE REMAINS A PRIORITY

- Fifty-two people have signed up for SERVE's "1% Challenge," committing to devote 1% of their average work time (10 hours a semester) to service. To date 32 have completed their hours.
- SERVE continues to collect donations for the Johnson Food Shelf and as of Feb. 28 has donated 400 pounds of food.
- With the support of JSC Sodexo Dining Services, the biweekly Johnson CommUNITY Meal has now gone weekly, with free noontime meals provided each Wednesday. Student volunteers play an integral role in this event.
- The Student Government Associations' recent Casino Night raised more than \$700 for the United Way of Lamoille County.
- The Athletics Department is gearing up for the College's second annual Relay for Life, scheduled for May 3. Participant sign-ups are running ahead of last year's event, which raised \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society.

